

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. AMAT/2601.P11/CMP/ECP/RKK

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated January 7, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 7, 2004. Claims 1 – 13 and 23 – 37 remain pending in the application as of the issuance of the Examiner's Office Action. Claims 9, 11, 25, and 26 have been cancelled in this Response and claims 1, 10, 12, and 24 have been amended. Reconsideration of the remaining claims is respectfully requested in view of the claim amendments presented above and the remarks presented below.

Claims 1, 2, 4 – 10, 24, 25 and 27 – 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hey (U.S. Patent No. 6,551,488). However, the Examiner indicated that claims 3, 11 – 13, 23, 26 and 34 – 37 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 24 to include the limitations of claims 11 and 26 respectively, along with the intervening claims. As such, Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 24 are allowable, and further, that all claims depending therefrom are also allowable. Reconsideration of the rejection in view of Applicants' amendments is respectfully requested.

In conclusion, Applicants submit that the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed. Further, the secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicant believes that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action.

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Having addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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